



THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

April, 2010

Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ah, spring. Time to marvel yet again at the annual spectacle of billions of migrants winging their way northward to reach their traditional breeding grounds. And it's also time for one of our own traditions. The good folks in Knoxville are hard at work preparing to host our annual Spring Meeting. Noted tour leader, author and world birder Steve Hilty, will be the featured speaker. See the details provided by Robin Barrow (KTOS) on the following page. And please make your reservations early. It's an immense help for the host chapter to have an accurate, early, headcount. And unlike our Winter Meeting at Reelfoot, I think I can guarantee a snow-free weekend!

Members who desire to place an item on the agenda for the Board of Director's Meeting should contact me as soon as possible (preferably by e-mail). This will allow us to plan our time most effectively, as the BOD Meeting and our Dinner will be in the same room.

The minutes of the Fall Meeting in Columbia have been posted on our website. For those who attended, please take a moment to review them. Send any corrections or additions to Secretary Laura McCall (Highland Rim). Congratulations to Tennessee birders for their participation in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). For the first time, we cracked the top ten (10th) of states in total checklists submitted. Kudos to Dean Edwards (KTOS) for reviewing Tennessee submissions for the third year in a row. Thanks to everyone who submitted a checklist and all the individuals and chapters who brought in new participants for this citizen science project.

Our Conservation Policy Committee has been hard at work. See the recap provided by Co-chairs Melinda Welton (NTOS) and Bob Hatcher (NTOS) within. Please take particular note of the Real Estate Transfer Fund issue and the desperate need for your e-mails and letters. Organizational letters are important, but personal contacts from constituents carry more weight!

Congratulations to Scott Somershoe (NTOS) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for the launch of Tennessee's Watchable Wildlife website (www.tnwatchablewildlife.org). It's a terrific educational tool and I urge all members to help pass the word. Scott welcomes any corrections or suggestions to improve the site. Lastly, with the coming of spring and migration, there will be a host of volunteer opportunities for both individual members and chapters. For those of you who have never done so, consider participating in an Earth Day or International Migratory Bird Day event. No matter your skill level, there's a role for everyone. Consider going along on a point count or riding along as an observer on a Breeding Bird Survey. Your local chapter officers can provide assistance.

See you in Knoxville,
DickPreston
dickpreston@bigriver.net

2010 TOS SPRING STATE MEETING KNOXVILLE, APRIL 30 – MAY 2, 2010

The Knoxville chapter invites all state TOS members to the spring meeting, to be held April 30 – May 2. Friday night registration, Saturday afternoon meetings, and the Saturday banquet will be held at the Knoxville Zoo, located off I-40 at Exit 392. Half-price tickets to the zoo for Saturday afternoon are available by advance purchase only.

The conference hotel will be the Super-8 at Strawberry Plains (Exit 398). All field trips will leave from the hotel, which offers a free continental breakfast and a Sunday brunch. A block of rooms is reserved at a rate of \$45.00 plus taxes per night, but the rooms are only held until April 16, so make your reservations now at 865-524-0855. Mention TOS when calling.

Many other hotels are available at the Strawberry Plains exit: Quality Inn (865-342-0003); Country Inns and Suites (865-546-5700); Ramada (865-546-7271); Econolodge (865-932-1217); Fairfield Inn by Marriott (865-971-4033); Motel 6 (865-633-6646); Best Western (865-246-1930); and La Quinta (865-633-5100). This exit also has fast food restaurants and casual dining.

We are excited to announce that the speaker for the Saturday banquet will be Steve Hilty (<http://www.ventbird.com/people/steve-hilty>), tour leader for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours and author of *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia* and *Birds of Venezuela*. The menu for the banquet includes chicken piccata, spinach lasagna, salad, and fresh fruit.

Field trips are still being finalized, but usually include Seven Islands, Kyker Bottoms, Sharp's Ridge, Cove Lake, and/or Cross Mountain. We are still planning on at least one field trip to the upper Smokies, despite the road closures this spring.

Send your registration to KTOS by April 15. For additional information, contact Robin Barrow, braveladyrobin@gmail.com.

TOS SPRING MEETING 2010 REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

TOS Chapter: _____

Are you an officer? Please indicate _____

\$ _____ for _____ Registrations @ \$10 each

\$ _____ for _____ Dinner Reservations @ \$20 each

\$ _____ for _____ Saturday afternoon Zoo tickets @ \$8.50 each

\$ _____ Total amount enclosed. Make Check payable to KTOS

Mail registration form and check to: **Marie Oakes**
18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Tennessee's Watchable Wildlife Website Now Online

I am proud to formally announce the launch of the new website of Tennessee's Watchable Wildlife, www.tnwatchablewildlife.org. The website was developed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in partnership with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation. The new site features a wide range of information on wildlife, mostly birds at this point, and wildlife watching in Tennessee.

The website has information on the birds found in Tennessee that can be easily searched by a bird's habitat, color, use of backyards and feeders, or taxonomic group. Each species has a profile where you can find out about the occurrence of the bird in the state, see pictures, hear songs and calls, and find places to see it. Descriptions of more than 170 places to watch wildlife in Tennessee have been developed with information about habitat, wildlife to observe, detailed directions and interactive maps, and more.

You will be able to find out how the Watchable Wildlife Endowment Fund is being used for the conservation of Tennessee's rare and endangered wildlife. The fund was established by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1994 and funded almost exclusively through sales of the Watchable Wildlife specialty license plate, otherwise known as the "Bluebird" license plate. The Watchable Wildlife tag is the only specialty license plate in Tennessee dedicated solely to the conservation of nongame and endangered wildlife. The 200,000th bluebird license plate was purchased in 2009, building the Watchable Wildlife Endowment Fund's value to \$5.3 million. The accumulated interest in the fund has now totaled more than \$1 million and has been used to fund research and monitoring of Tennessee's rare and endangered wildlife, establish wildlife viewing sites across the state, purchase land in strategic places, support wildlife festivals, and many other projects. The new website has a "Donate Now" option with a free gift for credit card donations. Purchase of items at our Watchable Wildlife store also benefit the fund.

The website will be regularly updated with timely information on wildlife activities occurring across the state, new places to watch wildlife, information on animal groups other than birds, and additional new features. The Watchable Wildlife Blog found on the website will be regularly updated and will include interesting wildlife news stories. You can subscribe to the blog through an RSS Feed and quickly see when there are updates. You can also follow us on Facebook or join forum discussions at NING.com by searching for Tennessee's Watchable Wildlife. Links to join Facebook and NING.com are available on the Watchable Wildlife website.

Please visit us at: www.tnwatchablewildlife.org

Thanks and enjoy!
Scott Somershoe

Partners in Flight: Two Decades of Bird Conservation

This year, Partners in Flight (PIF) is celebrating 20 years of bird conservation activity. Launched in 1990, PIF arose in response to concerns over disturbing declines among Neotropical migrant landbirds - those which breed in North America and winter in Latin America and the Caribbean. PIF's main message has been that the resources of public and private organizations in this hemisphere have to be combined, coordinated and increased in order to conserve our shared bird population resource.

There will be events and products throughout the year to highlight the PIF anniversary. For example, PIF will share the spotlight in the IMBD theme, "The Power of Partnerships." For details see: www.birdday.org.

For more details on PIF and the 20th Anniversary, see: www.partnersinflight.org/.

The Birding Community E-Bulletin January 2010. Archived: www.refugenet.org/birding/birding5.html.

TOS – Conservation Policy Committee

Current CPC Members: Melinda Welton and Bob Hatcher, Co-chairs
Dick Preston, Chuck Nicholson, Kevin Calhoon, and Gregg Elliott.

November 2009

Wilderness additions to Cherokee National Forest

TOS sent a letter to Senator Alexander asking his support for legislation that would designate an additional 11,879 acres as Wilderness in the Southern District of the Cherokee National Forest. Our request was consistent with the U.S. Forest Service recommendation that these tracts become additional Congressionally-designated Wilderness.

December 2009

No Child Left Inside

TOS sent a letter to Education Secretary Duncan in support of the No Child Left Inside Act (NCLI), which would expand opportunities for environmental and outdoor education in America's schools. President Obama's proposed FY2011 budget includes an increase in funding for environmental literacy under its \$1 billion 'Well-Rounded Education' budget initiative. Supporters expect the president's education bill to include language from the NCLI. Research has shown a host of positive associations with environmental education and access to the outdoors; these include academic achievement, physical and mental health, and linkages to a future green economy.

February 2010

Tennessee Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

TOS signed on as supporters of the Tennessee Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (TCOBoR), which has been introduced to the Tennessee legislature as Senate Joint Resolution 705. It is a no-strings-attached statement in support of childhood access to a clean natural environment, wildlife and our agrarian heritage.

Note: *The Tennessee Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights today was passed unanimously by the Parks and Tourism subcommittee of the House Environment and Conservation Committee. Next stop, full House Environment and Conservation Committee!*

Reinstating the TN Real Estate Transfer fund

In Governor Phil Bredesen's 2010 proposed budget he recommended fully restoring the TN Real Estate Transfer fund. This fund has helped purchase 240,000 acres of park and wildlife habitat since 1991, but was diverted to the general fund for the past two years. The revenues from the Real Estate Transfer fund can only contribute <1/10th of 1% to the state budget, but can leverage 1,000s of federal dollars for land conservation projects. TOS sent a letter to the Governor thanking him for reinstating the fund, we copied the Chairs of the House and Senate Finance Committees, and we sent an Action Alert to the subscribers of tnbirds asking them to also write letters. TOS also sent a letter to Representative Joe McCord, Chair of the House Environment Committee, thanking him for his endorsement for restoring this fund. The budget still needs to be approved by the House and Senate. It is certain that the TOS Conservation Policy Committee will again ask TOS members to contact members of the TN Legislature asking them to support fully restoring the Real Estate Transfer fund.

Zach Wamp's statement about birds benefiting from coalmining

On Feb. 19th, US Representative, and gubernatorial hopeful Zach Wamp made the following statement published in the *Tennessean*: "Wamp also rejected efforts to limit coal mining in Tennessee. 'I sat around a campfire in Campbell County with all the experts — biologists, geologists, fishing and wildlife,' he said. "It's actually good for the birds, and good for the environment ... to actually mine coal in a responsible way'." TOS sent a letter to the Congressman putting the record straight that coal mining does nothing to benefit the birds that nest over the coal seams of East Tennessee. We gave specifics pertaining to the Cerulean and the Golden-winged Warbler and included citations and copies of abstracts of four relevant scientific publications. Melinda Welton, also submitted a letter to the editor of the *Tennessean* with similar relevant facts.

Conservation Research and Funding Committee (CRFC) Report

The CRFC awarded two grants for 2009

The first grant is for \$2000 and went to Mark Hopey and Kathryn Gunter of Southern Appalachian Raptor Research (SARR). The grant will support SARR's monitoring and measuring Northern Saw-whet Owl population, habitat, breeding success and adult/juvenile dispersal at the high altitude, Big Bald Mountain site in Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee. Of special note, committee member and State Ornithologist Scott Somershoe, volunteered to provide additional assistance to fund mist nets used in capturing the owls.

The second grant awarded, in the amount of \$500.00, went to University of Tennessee Ph.D student Jessica Owens, to support her research on the physiological impacts of noise on birds. Jessica will use both captive and wild birds, focusing on the Carolina Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse.

Dr. David Aborn (Chattanooga) took the Chair on January first. Other Committee members are:

Scott Somershoe (Nashville)
Martha Waldron (Memphis)
Chuck Nicholson (Knoxville)
Virginia Reynolds (Memphis)
Frank Fekel (Nashville)
Rick Knight (Bristol)

Dick Preston

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATA DUE

Data from the recent Christmas Bird Count season are now due. If you haven't already sent your data to either me or the Audubon web site, please do so as soon as possible. All Tennessee bird counts should have the following data included with the bird statistics:

- 1 – total miles and hours by foot, car, and other modes (canoe, horse, etc.).
- 2 – total miles and hours for night-birding (owling) are kept separately.
- 3 – Feeder-watching hours are also kept separately; include names of feeder-watchers.
- 4 – All count day weather data: temps; wind; precipitation; clouds, storms/fronts.
- 5 – Please include the starting and ending times of the count.
- 6 – Please include the number of observers, number of field parties, and names of all observers. For example, one person in a car is one observer in one party; 4 people in another car are 4 observers in one party; this example results in 5 observers in 2 parties.

7 – Any information that is specific to your count is always appreciated and makes for a more interesting and informative report. Things like the total number of species ever found in the history of your particular count, major weather events (such as "heavy thunderstorms last night", etc.), the most observers we've ever had, etc.

8 – Please send the data to Ron Hoff, 282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716. Email is acceptable at aves7000@bellsouth.net. I would like to have the data sometime in the first month after the count. This allows timely reporting to the *Migrant* editor.

As always, thanks in advance for your help gathering bird data for the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

Ron Hoff

Tennessee bird count compiler
Tennessee Ornithological Society
282 Hackworth Lane
Clinton, TN 37716
865-435-4547
aves7000@bellsouth.net

New Birding Records for Northeast Tennessee

Members of the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter of TOS agree that the year 2009 is going to be hard to beat.

Old records were shattered, and one Elizabethton member even broke through birding's glass ceiling, becoming the first woman to tally 200 bird species in a single year in the region.

Rick Knight, a long-time chapter member, found 241 species and broke a record set in 2000 for most species of birds found in a single year in Northeast Tennessee, which is defined as the counties of Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington.

The late Howard P. Langridge raised the bar in 2000 when he found 237 species in a single year and set a record that many chapter members thought would be next to impossible to beat,

Only six years later, however, Knight served notice that he intended to try to break the record. He tied Langridge's record in 2006 by also seeing 237 species.

Howard passed away in 2004, so he wasn't around to compete in 2006 and 2009 for "Big Year" honors. After his death, the chapter established the Howard Langridge Memorial Award to honor any birders finding more than 200 species in a year in Northeast Tennessee.

Knight, who resides in Johnson City, addressed that friendly rivalry in describing how he felt when he knew that he had set a new record.

"I felt a combination of elation, relief and sadness," he said. "Elation that I had reached a goal. Relief that the pressure to do so was over. Sadness that Howard wasn't here to challenge my effort, although I know that he would have applauded it (and set out to beat it next year). Maybe someone else will pick up the gauntlet."

Last year was also a very good year for chapter members Rob Biller, Glen Eller, Roy Knispel and Brookie and Jean Potter. Each of these local birders surpassed the 200 mark, joining the ranks of local birders who have seen 200 or more species in a single year in the region.

For Jean Potter, she established a unique record of her own, shattering a "glass ceiling" in the process.

"I think that Jean is the first woman to get 200 in a year," said Knight, who serves as statistician for the chapter.

"I think we will see more women achieving this award," Jean Potter added. "I had lots of help and encouragement from fellow members of our club. Getting 200 birds takes dedication, enthusiasm for birds, lots of time and patience."

Jean and her husband, Brookie, reside near Wilbur Lake in Carter County. Only two species separated them this year. Brookie saw 210 species and Jean observed 208 species. This was also Brookie Potter's second successful try at a "Big Year."

The two birds that Brookie saw that Jean did not were Brown Pelican and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Submitted by Bryan Stevens

CHAPTER NEWS

GREENEVILLE CHAPTER - Surprisingly cold weather in winter resulted in diminished numbers of waterfowl and other species in Greene County. Nonetheless, a number of notable observations were reported. Highlights included the following: Snow Goose (blue phase, 16 Jan.), Northern Pintail (1-3, 26 Dec., 2 Jan., 16 Jan.), Ruddy Duck (2, 26 Dec.), Horned Grebe (7 Feb.—a very rare species for the county), Red-shouldered Hawk (13 Feb.), Merlin (16 and 23 Jan. (2 sites)), Peregrine Falcon (12 Dec. and 18 Jan.), Sandhill Crane (23, 15 Dec.), Whooping Crane (15 Dec.; identified by leg bands as 4-yr.-old male that summered at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin), American Woodcock (22 Jan. and 17 Feb. (2 sites)), Rufous Hummingbird (present at feeder in Greeneville from 6 Nov. to 10 Jan.), Marsh Wren (1-2, 12 and 26 Dec.), Fox Sparrow (5, 6 Feb.), and Red Crossbill (photographed at feeder 19 Dec.—another super rarity).

The club's annual spring count is scheduled for Saturday, 24 Apr. Regional birders interested in participating should contact Don Miller (pandion@embarqmail.com, 423-639-4100) for further information.

Don Miller

KNOXVILLE CHAPTER - In recent months we have had some very interesting programs and speakers thanks to our vice- president, Billie Cantwell who is in charge of arrangements for our monthly program. In September 2009 we had a potluck picnic at Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville and were joined by representatives from the Clinch River Raptor Center.

In October 2009 our guest speaker was Vickie Henderson who is on the Operation Migration Volunteer Board of Directors and serves as Board Chair. She was able to update us on Operation Migration a little bit and shared with us her bird photographs and paintings and shared stories about each species that she has observed – she is an accomplished nature photographer and artist who is inspired by all bird species.

In November our own Bob Steffy shared stories and lovely photographs of the Birds of Ecuador he and Diane had taken. In June 2008 eight members of the Knoxville and Chattanooga Chapters including Bob

and Diane Steffy had participated in a birding trip to Ecuador with our own David Trently of Avian Pursuits Nature Tours. Bob told us about the location, altitude, weather conditions and bird habitat observed for each species and the other flora and fauna seen on the trip were included also.

In December 2009 we heard from Emily Hockman who is a graduate student at UTK. Emily shared information on her masters' degree project which is entitled "Bachman Sparrows: Life History and the Population at Fort Campbell".

In January, Bill Clabough, Executive Director of the Foothills Land Conservancy spoke to our group. Bill shared with us information about the progress his organization has made in East Tennessee to expand and preserve the natural green spaces and rich wildlife habitats and efforts to protect the agricultural, scenic, and natural resources of our area. The Foothills Land Conservancy assists land owners with placing conservation easements on their property and also purchases individual tracts of land to place under a conservation easement to protect prime wild spaces from development.

In February, our speaker was John Froeschauer who is an interpretive specialist with TN State Parks. He spoke to us about backyard ecology – attracting butterflies, moths and birds to your property with various types of landscaping and plants.

In addition to these monthly programs we have had a number of great field trips in the area coordinated by Robin Barrow. Here are a few of the highlights: Hiawassee Wildlife Refuge (Rhea/Meigs County), Cades Cove (Blount County), Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge (Knox County), Fort Loudon Dam area (Loudon County), Cove Lake State Park (Campbell County), Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery (Anderson County) and Kyker Bottoms (Blount County) amount others.

In addition to field trips many of our members were out in the field involved in various Christmas Bird Counts in East Tennessee in December and early January.

Here's hoping for an early Spring!

Kathy Bivens

CHAPTER NEWS

Knoxville Chapter - In Memoriam

Richard Glenn Vornehm - age 68, died suddenly Wednesday, January 13, 2010 while in Colorado. Dick was employed at two Oak Ridge plants, K-25 and Y-12 for 27 years and cheerfully accepted early retirement at age 53. He was a loving, patient husband, father and grandfather. He was deeply loved by family, friends, and fishing buddies. His stories will be missed by all he knew. Dick lived life to the fullest and died a very happy man. He loved people and never met a stranger. He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Marita.

Dick and Marita have been members of KTOS since 1999. Dick lived with great passion, generosity, and joy. We were privileged to enjoy the warmth of his company, and to share unforgettable adventures with him in Africa.

Jerry Hader

MEMPHIS CHAPTER - Great Backyard Bird Count Participation soared this year in the Memphis metropolitan area. Increased advanced notification to schools and a superb newspaper article by long time MTOS member Van Harris in the Memphis Commercial Appeal introduced a lot of newcomers to bird watching this year. Below is a short chart comparing 2010 to 2009 results.

2009 Species	2010 Species		2010 Lists	
	2009 Lists			
Memphis	69	182	96	92
Collierville	57	73	57	28
Germantown	46	58	46	18
Arlington	50	22	45	5
Cordova	56	19	45	21
Millington	42	19	47	8
Atoka	31	6	29	3
Bartlett	22	5	13	6
Lakeland	21	5	12	3
Moscow	28	4	32	7
Munford	42	4	44	5
Gallaway	22	3		
Eads	8	2	27	6

Memphis TOS membership participated in five separate CBC's and one winter bird count this year which spanned three states here in the mid-south.

Fayette County CBC Fri. Dec 18th # of Observers: 11, # of groups: 6, # of Species: 75

Highlights: Barn Owl, Blue Headed Vireo, 3 Sedge Wrens, good # of immature Red-headed Woodpeckers, Woodcock and Harlan's & Krider's Hawks. Nice weather.

Memphis CBC Sun. Dec 20th - # of Observers: 24, # of Groups: 6, # of Species: 88 + 1 count week

Highlights: Rough-legged Hawk (1), Bald Eagle (3), Spotted Sandpiper (1), Eastern Screech-Owl (1), Great Horned Owl (2), Barred Owl (6), Blue-headed Vireo (1), Brown Creeper (16), House Wren (2), E. Bluebird (72), Orange-crowned warbler (2), Pine warbler (2), Eastern Meadowlark (300), Purple Finch (1), Pine Siskin (1 cw).

The total species count for the Memphis CBC was below what we have had in recent years. Notable misses included many of the less common duck & goose species, Mute Swan, Double-crested Cormorant, Wild Turkey, N. Bobwhite, American Woodcock, Northern Harrier, Black Vulture, Loggerhead Shrike, Fish Crow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Vesper Sparrow.

Wapanocca NWR (AR)/Shelby Forest CBC Sun. Dec 27th # of Observers: 15, # of Groups: 4, # of Species: 94

Highlights: White-tailed Kite (pending review); huge number of Northern Pintail; new roost site for a pair of Barn Owls.

Arkabutla Lake (MS) CBC Tues. Dec 29th # of Observers: 8, # of Groups: 3, # of Species: 95

Highlights: Sprague's Pipit, Baltimore Oriole, 33 Sandhill Cranes, very large numbers of Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls.

Moon Lake (MS) CBC Tues. Jan 5th # of Observers: 3, # of Groups: 2, # of Species: 82 (lack of ducks)

Highlights: Greater Scaup (first time on count); large numbers of Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks.

Winter Bird Count Strawberry Plains Audubon Center Holly Springs, MS, Sat. Jan 16th # of observers: 25, # of groups: 6, # of species: 58

Jay Walko

CHAPTER NEWS

The **NASHVILLE CHAPTER** CBC was held on December 20 and totaled 78 species, the same as last year, plus 2 count week species, Redhead and Palm Warbler. Our two most unusual birds for the count were a late Green Heron at Cumberland River Greenway at Brookmeade Park and a Greater White-fronted Goose at Radnor Lake. Other highlights included 99 Wild Turkeys, 2 Bald Eagles at West Meade and Harpeth West, 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 6 Fox Sparrows, 4 White-crowned Sparrows, and 7 Purple Finches. There was no influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches or Pine Siskins this year, and no Loggerhead Shrikes were found. The two Whooping Cranes that have been present the last two CBCs in the Bells Bend area did not show up this year. American Robins were streaming across the sky all day long in some areas, and practically nonexistent in others. We had highest ever counts for Black Vulture 372, Eastern Phoebe 13, Eastern Bluebird 331, Northern Mockingbird 328, and Chipping Sparrow 58.

Billy and Wanda Isom, former NTOS members who now live in Killen, AL, have very generously donated an Alexander Wilson original bird print and a first edition of Audubon's Nashville Warbler to TOS and the Friends of Radnor Lake to be displayed at Radnor Lake State Natural Area in Nashville. A copy of the book, *Alexander Wilson*, by Robert Cantwell was also given. For now these will be displayed in the Ann Tarbell Library at the Education Center at Radnor until a permanent birding display case can be constructed at the Visitor Center. We thank the Isoms for this very generous and appropriate donation. April 2010 will be the 200th anniversary of Wilson's journey through Tennessee en route to New Orleans. On this trip, he discovered the type specimen of the Tennessee Warbler on the banks of the Cumberland River. To read more about this, see the article by Chuck Nicholson in *The Migrant*, March 1986, vol. 57, No. 1.

The Hickory/Priest CBC, centered around the two lakes, was on Jan. 1 and totaled 89 species. Highlights included 1 Snow Goose, 2 Merlins, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 3 Purple Finches, 1 Rusty Blackbird, and highest ever counts for Common Loon

228, Wild Turkey 115, Bald Eagle 5, Wilson's Snipe 14, Eastern Screech-Owl 14, Eastern Phoebe 5, Northern Mockingbird 172, Brown Thrasher 20, and Eastern Towhee 41.

Jan Shaw

The **LEE AND LOIS HERNDON CHAPTER**, after initial postponements because of snowstorms, managed to conduct its 67th annual Elizabethton Christmas Bird Count for Elizabethton and Roan Mountain on Jan. 2. Participants still encountered one to two inches of snowfall on count day. A total of 20 observers in six parties found 70 species, which is near the average of 71.3 over the last 20 years. The all-time high on this count is 79 species found in 1995 and 2001.

The 57th Roan Mountain CBC was held on Dec. 30. There was still significant snow cover when nine observers in two parties found 48 species, which is slightly above the average of 45.2 over the last 20 years. The all-time high on the Roan Mountain CBC is 55 species found in 1987.

The chapter is currently planning its Spring Banquet. The date Saturday, April 24, has been confirmed for the chapter's annual Spring Bird Count.

Bryan Stevens



Pictured from left: The Herndon Chapter's "Big Year" birders included Roy Knispel, Rob Biller, Jean Potter, Brooke Potter, Glen Eller and Rick Knight, who established an all-time record for most birds seen in a single year in Northeast Tennessee.

Photo by Bryan Stevens

Call for Nominations for TOS Distinguished Service Award

Each Year TOS endeavors to find and award deserving person or persons whose contribution to TOS goes above and beyond the norm.

Quote from Ron Hoff who chaired the first awards committee in 1990:

“... for long-standing TOS members who, over the years, have made significant contributions to the birdlife of Tennessee and/or to the state organization. The intent of this award is to formally say ‘thank you’ to some of the people who have put in countless hours for various activities that have helped our birds...”

Nominations are usually made by Chapter presidents, with nominees coming from the membership, but don't forget our at-large members. Nominees are described in a letter sent to the Awards Committee via TOS President. The Committee will need to know the ornithological history of the individual with list of accomplishments.

Please think of the most deserving “unsung heroes” among your members and we will try to acknowledge their contributions, give our thanks, and award the gold Mockingbird pin to them at the state meeting. Nominations should be submitted before April 15th to be considered this year.

June 30th Deadline

The deadline date for the August issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is June 30th. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:

Theresa Graham, Editor
PO Box 366, Oakland TN 38060
(901) 465-4263 (home)
(901) 748-9324 (fax)
e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net

It is time

The goldfinch are golden
The chippers are here
It's surely a sign of spring

The bluebirds are feeding
The phoebe flits by
It's surely a sign of spring

The rubythroats flare
The turkeys display
The mourning dove puffs up and flirts

But the juncos and whitethroats
Finch purple and house
Are still running around on the ground

Winter is leaving
So that summer can come
It's surely a sign of spring.

Ralph Brinkhurst





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treasurer@tnbirds.org

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